

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.       A method of intercepting a transaction instantiated by a database  
2 application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the  
3 transaction to the database, the method comprising:  
4                   in response to a triggering action generated by the database application,  
5 calling an application program interface to raise an event;  
6                   initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an  
7 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and  
8                   if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic  
9 signature is required for the transaction, instantiating a signature collection process.
- 1                   2.       The method of claim 1 wherein the application program interface  
2 comprises an event name and an event id.
- 1                   3.       The method of claim 1 wherein the signature collection process  
2 can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.
- 1                   4.       The method of claim 3 wherein the application program interface  
2 comprises an event name, an event id and an indication of whether the signature  
3 collection process is a synchronous process or an asynchronous process.
- 1                   5.       The method of claim 1 wherein the workflow process generates  
2 an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.
- 1                   6.       The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic comprises  
2 unstructured data.
- 1                   7.       The method of claim 6 wherein the unstructured data comprises  
2 XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.
- 1                   8.       The method of claim 7 wherein the XML data comprises a first  
2 well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated from a mapping to  
3 fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that comprises the  
4 electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

1                   9.     The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
2                   obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection  
3 process; and  
4                   thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic  
5 signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid  
6 signature was received.

1                   10.    The method of claim 9 further comprising committing the  
2 transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

1                   11.    A computer system for searching unstructured data stored in a  
2 database, the computer system comprising:  
3                   a processor;  
4                   a database; and  
5                   a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-  
6 readable memory configured to store a computer program;  
7                   wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:  
8                   (i) call an application program interface to raise an event in response to  
9 a triggering action generated by the database application;  
10                  (ii) initiate a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an  
11 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and  
12                  (iii) instantiate a signature collection process if execution of the rule  
13 results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

1                   11.    The computer system of claim 10 wherein the application  
2 program interface comprises an event name and an event id.

1                   12.    The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signature  
2 collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous  
3 collection process.

1                   13.    The computer system of claim 10 wherein the workflow process  
2 generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

1                   14.     The computer system of claim 13 wherein the electronic  
2 comprises unstructured data.

1                   15.     The computer system of claim 14 wherein the unstructured data  
2 comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

1                   16.     The computer system of claim 15 wherein the XML data  
2 comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated  
3 from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that  
4 comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature  
5 collection process.

1                   17.     The computer system of claim 10 further comprising:  
2 obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection  
3 process; and  
4 thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic  
5 signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid  
6 signature was received.

1                   18.     The computer system of claim 10 wherein the processor is  
2 further operative with the computer program to commit the transaction to the database  
3 if the electronic signature is verified.

1                   19.     A computer program stored on a computer-readable storage  
2 medium for searching unstructured data stored in a database, the computer program  
3 comprising:  
4 code for calling an application program interface to raise an event in  
5 response to a triggering action generated by the database application;  
6 code for initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine  
7 if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and  
8 code for instantiating a signature collection process if execution of the  
9 rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the  
10 transaction.

1                   20.     The computer program of claim 19 wherein the workflow  
2 process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

1                   21.     The computer program of claim 19 wherein the electronic  
2 comprises unstructured data.

1                   22.     The computer program of claim 21 wherein the unstructured data  
2 comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

1                   23.     The computer program of claim 22 wherein the XML data  
2 comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated  
3 from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that  
4 comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature  
5 collection process.